

Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund Evaluation of a Proposal for the Development of a Tangible Structure, Facility or Educational Program

Project Number: 1206-13

Title: M) 2007 Hope House Fishing Excursion and Clinic **Date:** March 11, 2007

The Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund is to be used solely for the purpose of conserving and enhancing finfish taken by recreational anglers, enforcing laws and regulations related to natural resource conservation, improving recreational fishing opportunities, administering the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament program, obtaining necessary data and conducting research for fisheries management, and creating or restoring habitat for species taken by recreational fishermen.

Code of Virginia, Section 28.2-302.3

A. Project Purpose

1. Does the project meet statutory guidelines for funding?

The project meets funding guidelines under the category of “improving fishing opportunities” by the providing of access to a fishing experience to physically challenged youths and young adults.

2. Does the project fulfill a real need and/or provide a substantial benefit to the saltwater recreational fishery?

The project only marginally benefits the saltwater recreational fishery. There is a direct benefit Great Bridge Fishermen’s Association (GBFA) through the funding of a very worthy community project. GBFA is probably the most active angling club in providing community service and “giving back” to the community as a whole through donation of time, effort and monies to community service. Provision of funding for this project (and similar ones) could encourage other associations to pursue similar ventures.

3. Does the project provides its main, or substantial, benefits to the saltwater recreational angler?

The project is entirely related to the saltwater recreational fishery, so there are no tangential considerations. As mentioned above the direct benefits to the saltwater recreational angler are

marginal at best.

B. Project Analysis

1. What are the project's strengths?

The project strength is its relationship to an ongoing program in the GBFA. The GBFA has been involved in providing challenged persons the opportunity to engage in a quality angling experience for several years. Their Hope House program has been well-structured with good volunteer support. They have generally funded their projects from donations, their annual raffles, and member support. The funding requested from the RFAB will enable the organization to accomplish two goals: 1) expand the scope of the program to involve more participants; and 2) develop a more stable funding base to support the expanded program. This is a good opportunity for the volunteers to make a contribution to the lives of challenged youth on the southside of Hampton Roads. This is real contribution to the southside Hampton Roads community.

2. What are the project's weaknesses?

The projects weakness is the lack of a direct benefit to the saltwater recreational fishery. This expenditure of license monies does not have the real probability of increasing angler participation, license sales, fish stocks, general public access, habitat, or science.

C. Project Budget

1. Is the budget realistic and reasonable for 1) the size and type of project proposed; 2) the number of people likely to benefit; and, 3) the area benefiting from the project considering the area's number of saltwater fishermen and license sales?

Funding works out to \$81 per participant for the one-day outing (40 Hope House residents divided by project cost of \$3235). The budget seems reasonable for such an undertaking providing a headboat fishing trip, lunch, snacks, drinks, hats and t-shirts for participants.

2. What is the local commitment to the project (cost sharing, future management and maintenance, in-kind commitments of personnel, etc.)?

The cost-sharing component of this project is good. The GBFA is contributing the requisite 25% matching money viewed as standard for "facilities" projects, although fishing programs are not really facilities projects and probably should have their own funding guidelines.

D. Provide an overall evaluation of the project, including a numerical ranking of the project on the "SCORE" scale provided.

The RFAB has a history of supporting and funding fishing programs. This is a program with an history of service to the community that is well-organized and well-supported by the

GBFA. Funding will enable the program to expand its scope. The RFAB has often looked at its role in continuing its support for one-day fishing programs for youths and/or challenged members of our community, and a policy that delineates set criteria for support (types of programs; how long support will be allowed before a program must become self-funding; funding guidelines with respect to the amount and/or percentage of funding RFAB will allow; etc) often has been discussed. However, until firm criteria and guidelines are established, funding this program merits consideration.

SCORE (Circle One)	Poor				Fair				Excellent	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	[7]	8	9